



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### **VIRGINIA'S WHEAT AND BARLEY YIELDS UP FROM 2003**

Virginia's wheat producers expect to harvest 61 bushels per acre in 2004, according to Virginia Agricultural Statistics. This is up 15 bushels per acre from last year. Yield forecasts are based on conditions as of July 1. Virginia's wheat production is expected to total nearly 11.6 million bushels from an estimated 190,000 acres, up 57 percent from last year's total wheat crop of 7.4 million bushels. The harvest of this year's wheat crop has been ahead of last year and ahead of the five year average.

The survey indicated barley yields averaged 70 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production would total 2.8 million bushels, up slightly from 2003. Harvested acreage is expected to total 40,000 acres down 11 percent from last year.

### **FLUE CURED TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP 74 PERCENT IN 2004 PEACH PRODUCTION UP**

Virginia's 2004 flue cured tobacco production is expected to total 52.9 million pounds, up 74 percent from 2003. The increase in production results from an increase in acres and yield. Acres are estimated at 23,000 acres, resulting in a yield of 2,300 pounds per acre. This yield forecast is up 610 pounds per acre from last year.

Virginia's 2004 peach crop is expected to total 10.0 million pounds. This production forecast is based on crop conditions as of July 1. If realized, this year's estimated production would be equal to last year.

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## **WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM JUNE FORECAST**

U.S. **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.47 billion bushels. This is down 4 percent from last month and 14 percent below 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 42.2 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from last month.

U.S. **hard red winter**, at 838 million bushels, is down 5 percent from a month ago. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 248 million bushels. Soft Red Winter, at 383 million bushels, is down 3 percent from the last forecast.

U. S. **durum wheat** production is forecast at 88.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 33.2 bushels per acre, 0.5 bushel less than last year.

## **BARLEY PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM 2003**

Production of U.S. **barley** for 2004 is forecast at 264 million bushels, 5 percent below 2003. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 63.5 bushels per acre, up 4.6 bushels from last year. Area for harvest, at 4.15 million acres, is down 11 percent from 2003.

## **U.S. FLUE CURED TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP 14 PERCENT FROM 2003**

### **U.S. PEACH PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT FROM 2003**

U.S. all **flue-cured tobacco** production is forecast at 518 million pounds, up 14 percent from the 2003 crop and 1 percent above 2002. Yield per acre for flue-cured is forecast at 2,244 pounds, up 287 pounds from 2003 and 150 pounds above the 2002 yield. Forecasted yields for all flue-cured tobacco in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia increased from last year, while yields are expected to decline in Georgia.

The July 2004 forecast of U.S. **peach** production is 2.61 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2003 and 3 percent above two years ago. Fourteen States forecast increases in production from last year, while 11 States expect declines and 4 States remain unchanged.

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